



ORIGINAL

RE: DOCKET NO. E-01345A-12-0290

Docket NO. E-01345A-10-0394

Docket NO. E-01933A-12-0296

Docket NO. E-04204A-12-0297

## TANQUE VERDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT 13

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Bob Stump, Chairman  
Commissioner Gary Pierce  
Commissioner Brenda Burns  
Commissioner Bob Burns  
Commissioner Susan Bitter Smith  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
1200 West Washington Street  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

AZ CORP COMMISSION  
DOCKET CONTROL



0000144458

### Re: Protecting School Solar Rights & Saving Taxpayer Dollars

Chairman, Commissioners:

As the Superintendent of an Arizona school district and educational organization, I'm writing to express support for net metering, the straightforward electricity bill credit arrangement that allows Arizona schools and universities to save money on their energy bills. This simple and fair policy will save Arizona schools billions of tax payers' dollars, allowing constrained financial resources to be directed to other, more critical, educational activities.

As a district we are extremely concerned that the state's utilities are mounting a concerted effort to roll-back this important solar customer right, and we urge the Commission to support net metering as it stands today. If customers are prevented from receiving fair credit for the clean energy they generate and occasionally feed back to the grid via net metering, Arizona will be throwing away one of the most effective policy tools our schools have to save taxpayer dollars.

Arizona's educational institutions, from elementary schools to our state's universities, are investing in solar energy systems and using net metering to help lower their electricity bills, while also delivering important benefits to other energy customers in the state. In Arizona Public Service territory alone, school and governmental entities will save \$295 million in electricity costs over the life of their systems.<sup>1</sup> The solar energy systems generating power on our state's educational facilities are providing benefits to all Arizona electricity customers by reducing the need for our utilities to buy expensive peak power, reducing costs to maintain the electricity grid, reducing the need for utility generated power to be transported over long distances, and reducing air emissions and water use. As educators, we also use these solar systems to help teach our students about solar energy and energy independence.

We urge you as our elected energy Commissioners to protect our investments and ensure that the utilities are required to adequately account for the benefits net metered solar energy provides to all electricity customers. We ask you to continue to support our ability to invest in local clean energy by protecting net metering.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

<sup>1</sup> Analysis by the Solar Energy Industries Association.

Arizona Corporation Commission

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APR 19 2013

